Final Environmental Assessment
403rd AVIONICS SHOP RELOCATION PROJECT

Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi

Environmental Flight
81CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB, MS 39534

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14. ABSTRACT

Keesler AFB proposes to construct and operate a new 403rd Avionics Shop Facility. The new faciJity, which will replace the existing 403rd Avionics Shop, will consist of offices, shops, and support spaces for aircraft maintenance and repair. The action also includes the construction of underground utilities, walks and drives, off-street parking, and landscaping . This EA evaluates the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternatives. Under the NoAction Alternative the 403rd Avionics Shop Facility would continue to operate in Hanger 1 and the site improvements proposed for Hanger 1 as part of the FY02 Technical Training Facility (TTF2) project would have to be made in another location. Resources considered in the impact analysis were: air quality, water resources, earth resources, noise, land use, infrastructure and utilities, hazardous materials and hazardous wastes, biological resources, cultural resources socioeconomic resources, and environmental justice. No significant impacts would result from the Proposed Alternative or No-Action Alternative .

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COVER SHEET

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
403rd AVIONICS SHOP RELOCATION
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPI

Responsible Agencies: Department of the Air Force, 81st Training Wing (81 TRW), Keesler Air Force Base (AFB), Mississippi.

Proposed Action: Relocation of 403rd Avionics Shop Facility at Keesler AFB, Harrison County, Mississippi.

Report Designation: Environmental Assessment (EA).

Point of Contact: Written comments and inquiries regarding this document should be directed to: 81 CES/CEV, 508 L Street, Keesler AFB, Mississippi 39534, (228) 377-5804.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

45 AS	45th Airlift Squadron
81 TRW	81st Training Wing
403 WG	403rd Wing
738 EIS	738th Engineering Installation Squadron
$\mu g/m^3$	microgram per cubic meter
ACM	asbestos-containing material
ADP	Area Development Plan
AFB	Air Force Base
AFI	Air Force Instruction
AICUZ	Air Installation Compatible Use Zone
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
AQCR	air quality control region
BGP MSA	Biloxi-Gulfport-Pascagoula Metropolitan Statistical Area
BMP	best management practice
C&D	construction and demolition
CAA	Clean Air Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CFS	cubic feet per second
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CRMP	Cultural Resources Management Plan
CY	calendar year
dB	Decibel
dBA	A-weighted sound level (dB)
DERP	Defense Environmental Restoration Program
DNL	day-night average sound level
DoD	Department of Defense
DoDD	Department of Defense Directive
E3	electromagnetic environmental effects
EA	environmental assessment
EED	electroexplosive devices
EIAP	environmental impact analysis process
EIFS	Economic Impact Forecast System
EIS	environmental impact statement
EO	Executive Order
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act
F	Fahrenheit
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FICON	Federal Interagency Committee on Urban Noise
FY	fiscal year
GRPC	Gulf Regional Planning Commission
HUD	United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
HM	hazardous material

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS (Continued)

HW	hazardous waste
HWMP	Hazardous Waste Management Plan
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IRP	Installation Restoration Program
lbs	Pounds
L_{eq}	equivalent sound level
L_{max}	maximum sound level
L_p	sound pressure level
MDAH	Mississippi Department of Archives and History
MDEQ	Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
MFH	military family housing
mgd	million gallons per day
$MMBtu/ft^2$	million British thermal units per square foot
MPE	maximum permissible exposure
MSNHP	Mississippi Natural Heritage Program
MSL	mean sea level
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
mW/cm^2	milliwatts per square centimeter
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NESHAPS	National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NLR	Noise Level Reduction
NO_2	nitrogen dioxide
NO_x	nitrogen oxides
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O_3	Ozone
ODS	ozone depleting substance
PAO	Public Affairs Office
PEL	permissible exposure level
PL	Public Law
$PM_{2.5}$	particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers
PM_{10}	particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 10 micrometers
PPP	Pollution Prevention Program
ppm	parts per million
P2 MAP	Pollution Prevention Management Action Plan
PPMP	Pollution Prevention Management Plan
RACM	regulated asbestos containing material
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RF	radio frequency
RTV	rational threshold value
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SEL	sound exposure level
sf	square feet

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS (CONTINUED)

SIP	State Implementation Plan
sm	square meter
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SO_x	sulfur oxides
tpy	tons per year
TTF2	Technical Training Facility Fiscal Year 02
TSP	total suspended particulates
USAF	United States Air Force
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
VOC	volatile organic compound

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CHAPTER 1 PURPOSE AND NEED

This chapter includes: a statement of the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, a description of the Proposed Action, the location of the Proposed Action, , a summary of the scope of the environmental review, and an overview of the organization of this environmental assessment (EA).

1.1 Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) identifies, describes, and evaluates the potential impacts to the environment associated with the proposed relocation of the 403rd Avionics Shop Facility at Keesler Air Force Base (Keesler AFB; also referred to herein as "the base" or the "installation").

This report also identifies any actions that could be taken to minimize the environmental impacts. This document was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (Title 40 of the United States Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Parts 1500-1508); and the guidelines for the Department of the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP; Air Force Instruction [AFI] 32-7061) as promulgated by 32 CFR 989.

1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to construct a new 403rd Avionics Shop Facility to replace the existing 403rd Avionics Shop Facility which is currently located in Building 4201 (Hanger 1). Hanger 1 will be demolished to provide space for construction of the FY02 Technical Training Facility (TTF2), which is the second phase of development for the Technical Training Campus at Keesler AFB.

The 403rd Maintenance Squadron is home to the 403rd Avionics Shop which provides maintenance and repair services for the aircraft that operate at Keesler AFB. The 403rd Avionics Shop also provides technical training for Keesler AFB personnel.

1.3 Proposed Action

Keesler AFB proposes to construct and operate a new 403rd Avionics Shop Facility. The new facility, which will replace the existing 403rd Avionics Shop, will consist of offices, shops, and support spaces for aircraft maintenance and repair. The action also includes the construction of underground utilities, walks and drives, off-street parking, and landscaping.

1.4 Location of the Proposed Action

Keesler AFB is located in Harrison County, Mississippi, within the boundaries of the City of Biloxi (Figure 1-1). The base is located on a peninsula of land bounded by the Back Bay of Biloxi to the north and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. U.S. Highway 90 parallels the southern boundary of the base and provides access to Interstate 10 via U.S. Highways 49 and 110.

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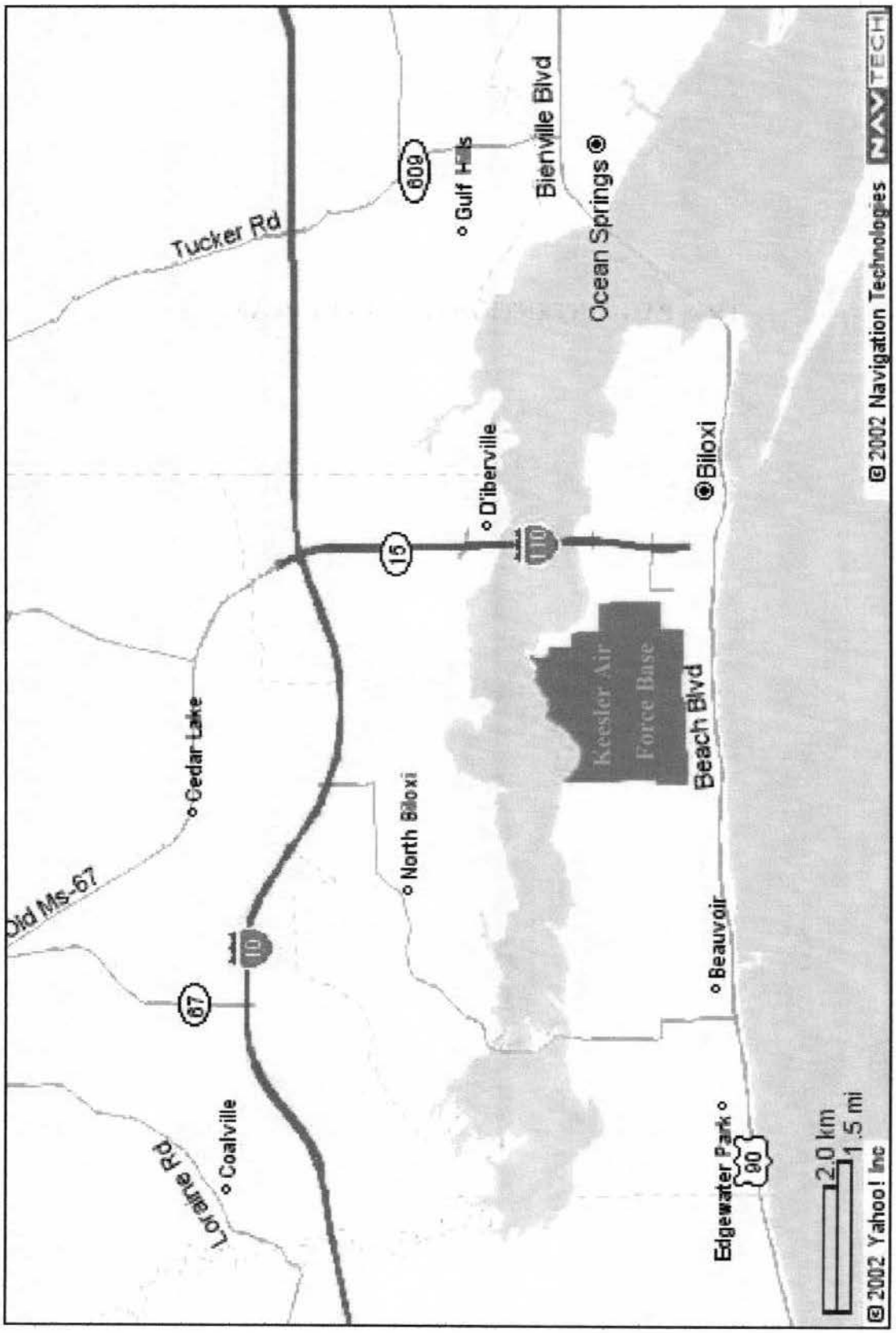

Figure 1-1 Location Map – Keesler Air Force Base

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1.5 Scope of the Environmental Review

Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), federal agencies are required to assess systematically the environmental consequences of their proposed actions during the decision-making process. The intent of NEPA is to protect, restore, or enhance the environment through well-informed federal decisions. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was established under NEPA to implement and oversee federal policy in this process. In 1978, the CEQ issued regulations implementing the process [40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508]. The CEQ regulations require that an EA:

- Briefly provide evidence and analysis to determine whether the Proposed Action might have significant effects that would require preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). If the analysis determines that the environmental effects would not be significant, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) would be prepared.
- Facilitate the preparation of an EIS, when required.

This EA assesses the construction and operation of the proposed 403rd Avionics Shop Facility at Keesler AFB. The EA complies with the Air Force environmental impact analysis process (EIAP) for the Proposed Action as set forth in Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061 (32 CFR 989), *Environmental Impact Analysis Process*, which implements NEPA, CEQ regulations, and Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 4715.9, *Environmental Planning and Analysis*.

1.6 Introduction to the Organization of the Document

This EA is organized into seven chapters. Chapter 1 contains a statement of the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, the location of the Proposed Action, a summary of the scope of the environmental review and the EIAP, and an introduction to the organization of the EA. Chapter 2 provides a history of the formulation of alternatives, briefly describes the alternatives eliminated from further consideration, details the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative, summarizes the environmental impacts, and states the preferred alternative. Chapter 3 contains a general description of the biophysical resources and baseline conditions that potentially could be affected by the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative. Chapter 4 is an analysis of the environmental consequences. Chapter 5 lists the preparers of this document. Chapter 6 lists the persons and agencies consulted in the preparation of this EA. Chapter 7 lists the source documents referenced in the preparation of this EA. Appendix A contains the Air Force Form 813 for the project. Appendix B contains the Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning correspondence related to the project. Appendix C contains the Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI).

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CHAPTER 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

This chapter contains the following six sections: a history of the formulation of alternatives, the site selection criteria, identification of alternatives eliminated from further consideration, a detailed description of the Proposed Action, a description of the No-Action Alternative, and a comparison of the environmental impacts of all alternatives.

2.1 History of the Formulation of Alternatives

Keesler AFB initiated efforts to relocate the 403rd Avionics Shop Facility on base as early as 1998. Proposed sites were identified according to the size and location of the parcels and the ability of the site to meet the requirements of the purpose and need. Keesler AFB planners and base departments identified the following four alternatives (Figure 2-1) as potentially suitable for the development of the proposed action, as well as a fifth alternative, the no-action alternative.

- **Alternative 1.** The proposed site consists of a vacant parcel of land on the south side of Taxiway Alpha and south of Aircraft Apron #1. The existing land use for the site is Airfield. The site is currently undeveloped and vegetation consists of maintained grasses. The site is surrounded by a concrete paved aircraft parking apron (Aircraft Apron #1).

- **Alternative 2.** The proposed site consists of a vacant parcel of land on the southwest sides of Hangers 4253 and 4254. The existing land use for this site is Airfield. The site is currently undeveloped and vegetation consists of maintained grasses. The site is bordered on the north by Hangers 4253 and 4254, on the northeast by Taxiway No.1, on the southeast by the Non-Destructive Investigation Laboratory Building, and on the southwest by Parade Lane. Streets bordering the proposed site include Parade Lane to the southwest, and Phantom Street to the southeast.

- **Alternative 3.** The proposed site consists of an existing building (Building 228), open space, and a parking area on the southeast side of Taxiway Alpha. The existing land use for this site is Airfield. Building 228 is currently used as an unconditioned storage facility for Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) and would have to be remodeled and expanded to accommodate the proposed Avionics Shop facility function. Major streets in the vicinity of the proposed site include "I" Street to the north and "H" Street to the south.

- **Alternative 4.** The proposed site consists of an open area of land north and east of Buildings 228 and 225, and west of the Field Printing Building (Building 901) and the Wall Studio Building (Building 902). The existing land use for this site Airfield. The portion of the site not used for parking is currently vegetated with maintained grasses. Major streets in the vicinity of the proposed site include "I" Street to the north and "H" Street to the south.

- **Alternative 5.** This alternative is the "no-action" alternative and consists of no construction for new facilities.

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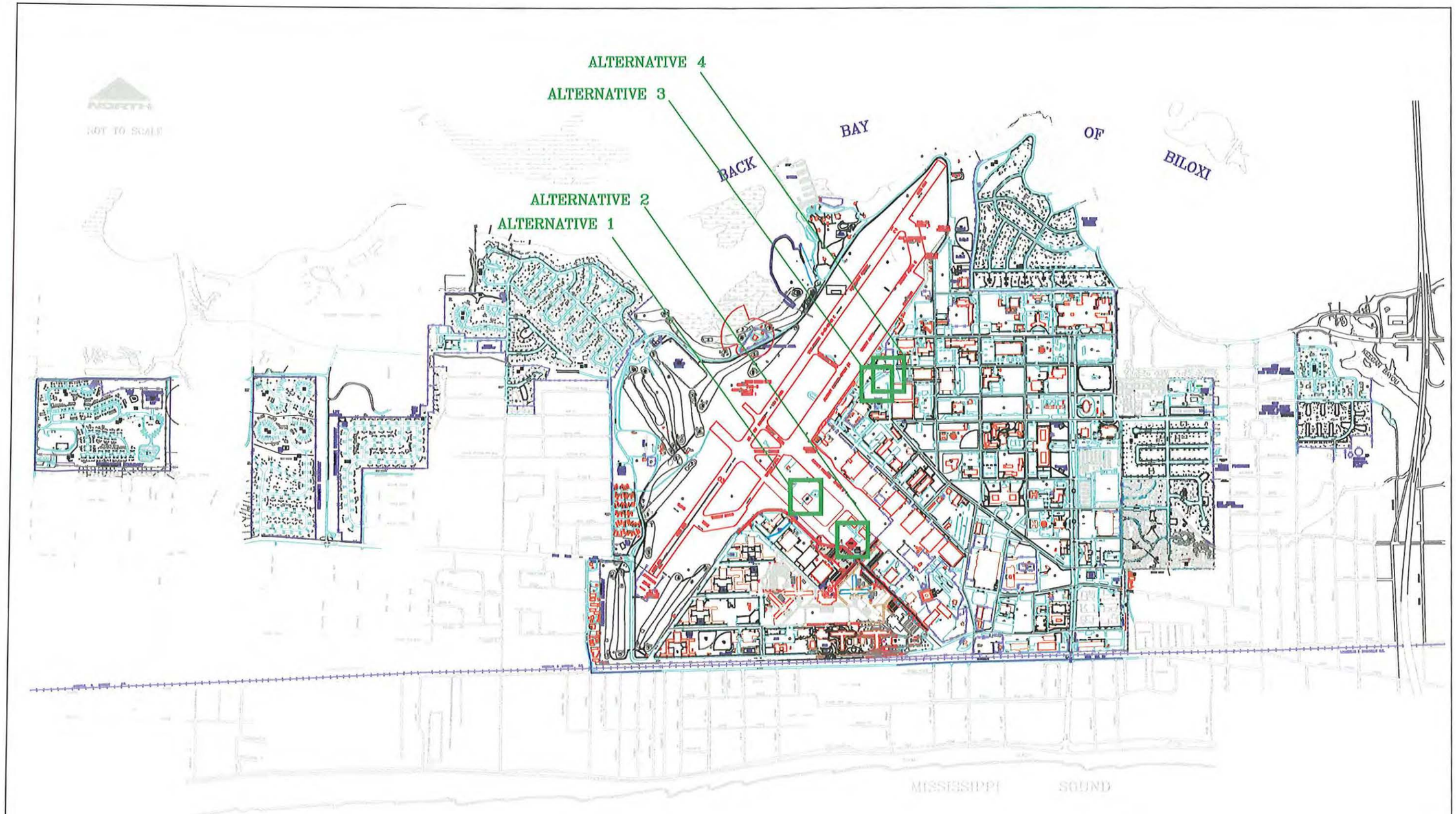

FIGURE 2-1
ALTERNATIVE SITE LOCATIONS
403rd AVIONICS BUILDING RELOCATION

KEESLER AFB, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

2.2 Site Selection Criteria

The following general site-selection criteria were used to screen each potential site and identify reasonable alternatives (see Table 2-1). These criteria were developed based upon the purpose and need and other land use and environmental factors important in siting this facility.

- Location adjacent to the airfield;
- Adequate space to accommodate the intended uses;
- No impacts to air field operations and flight line safety;
- Minimal impacts on existing traffic flow in the area;
- Compatibility with land-use designations and surrounding visual character;
- Compatibility with current and future planned projects; and
- Minimization of adverse impacts to natural resources.

Table 2-1 Evaluation of Alternatives Based On Siting Criteria, Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi

Alternative (#)	Purpose and Need Criteria			Land Use and Environmental Criteria			
	Location	Space	Safety	Traffic	Land Use	Other Projects	Natural Resources
1	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	✓		✓		✓		
4	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓

Note: ✓ denotes that the alternative meets the site requirement.

2.3 Alternatives Eliminated from Further Consideration

Evaluation of each siting alternative against the site-selection criteria revealed that Alternatives 1, 3, and 4 do not meet all the proposed site evaluation criteria and they will not be considered in subsequent sections of this analysis. Only Alternative 2 meets all of the purpose and need criteria as well as all of the proposed environmental and land use criteria. Therefore, only Alternative 2 and the No-Action Alternative will be considered further in the remaining sections of this document. Following is a brief description of the results of the comparison of each alternative to the site-selection criteria.

- **Alternative 1** meets most of the purpose and need criteria as well as the land use and environmental criteria for the siting of the proposed facility. The major concern with this site is the close proximity of the site to the air field and flight operations and the limited access to the site for vehicles and personnel. Vehicles and personnel would have to cross the aircraft parking apron to gain access to the site, and this could create a safety problem. There is also a problem with limited access to present hanger space, which is needed for some of the repair work. Therefore, Alternative 1 will not be evaluated further in this EA.

- **Alternative 3** meets most of the purpose and need criteria, but only one of the land use and environmental criteria for the proposed facility. Space in Building 228 is limited and use of this building for the proposed action would require significant remodeling, including the addition of a second level within the building. Building 228 is considered to be unique from a historical perspective and the remodeling work would have to be coordinated with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. There is also some concern about the presence of asbestos containing building materials and lead based paint that would require special demolition precautions. While the site is located adjacent to the Aircraft Parking Apron #2, there are no hangers in close proximity. This would limit the efficiency of the shop and require additional travel for certain types of projects. Alternative 3 will not be evaluated further in this EA.

- **Alternative 4** meets all of the purpose and need criteria, and most of the land use and environmental criteria. The proposed site is currently used for parking, and the parking area would have to be relocated in order to accommodate the proposed shop facility. As in the case of Alternative 3, there are no hanger facilities in the vicinity of this site which creates some logistical problems that are considered inefficient. Alternative 4 will not be evaluated further in this EA.

2.4 Detailed Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action evaluated in this EA is to construct the new 403rd Avionics Shop Facility on the preferred site (Alternative 2) as determined in Section 2.2 (see Table 2-1). The 403rd Avionics Shop Facility would be constructed in the vacant open area adjacent to Aircraft Parking Apron #1 and Taxiway No. 1, and west of hangers 4253 and 4254. The facility would consist of a pre-engineered structural steel building system on a concrete slab.

The building will include office space, shops, support spaces, utilities, and infrastructure to support the avionics mission.

2.5 Description of the No-Action Alternative

The CEQ regulations implementing NEPA require that a "no-action" alternative be evaluated. Under this alternative, Keesler would not construct the new Avionics Shop Facility at Keesler AFB. The 403rd Avionics Shop Facility would continue to operate in Hanger 1 and the site improvements for the TTF2 proposed for Hanger 1would have to be made in another location. This would negatively impact the implementation of the second phase of development of the Technical Training Campus at Keesler AFB and new plans for the TTF2 would have to be made.

No direct environmental effects would result from implementation of the no-action alternative, but this alternative would not meet the identified purpose and need

2.6 Comparison of Environmental Effects of All Alternatives

Table 2-2 summarizes the impacts of the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative.

Table 2-2 Environmental Effects of the Preferred Alternative and the No-Action Alternative Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi

Resource	Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2)	No Action (Alternative 5)
Military Mission (Chapter 4.1)	The new facility will allow for efficient repair, servicing, and maintenance of aircraft, as well as improved training and more efficient utilization of equipment and space.	No change from the baseline condition as described in Chapter 3.1
Air Quality (Chapter 4.2)	Short-term increase in dust during construction. Once construction is complete the proposed project should not cause any changes in current air quality conditions.	No change from the baseline condition as described in Chapter 3.2
Water Resources (Chapter 4.3)	There will be a slight increase in impervious surfaces. BMPs will be implemented during construction to minimize erosion and runoff.	No change from the baseline condition as described in Chapter 3.3
Earth Resources (Chapter 4.4)	The new facility will be located in an area that has been previously disturbed, therefore, the potential for impact to earth resources would be minimal.	No change from the baseline condition as described in Chapter 3.4
Noise (Chapter 4.5)	Noise levels will increase slightly during construction of the facility. The primary source of noise at Keesler AFB would continue to be from aircraft operations, and would generally mask the construction noise.	No change from the baseline condition as described in Chapter 3.4
Land Use (Chapter 4.6)	The planned location for the project would be in a land use area with facilities of the same function as the proposed project. No land use category changes would be necessary.	No change from the baseline condition as described in Chapter 3.6
Infrastructure and Utilities (Chapter 4.7)	Demand on water, wastewater, storm water and infrastructures would remain the same. The project should not cause an increase in the usage of energy for the base.	No change from the baseline condition as described in Chapter 3.7
Hazardous Wastes (Chapter 4.8)	It is not anticipated that the Proposed Action would significantly impact Keesler AFB HM and HW usage and management. IRP management would not be affected by the proposed action.	No change from the baseline condition as described in Chapter 3.4
Biological Resources (Chapter 4.9)	The proposed action would occur within a maintained area of the base with limited biological resources. No impacts to wildlife and vegetation; threatened, endangered, or special-status species; or wetlands are anticipated.	No change from the baseline condition as described in Chapter 3.9
Cultural Resources (Chapter 4.10)	No archaeological resources have been identified on Keesler AFB. The proposed action would have no other impacts to any on-base cultural resources.	No change from the baseline condition as described in Chapter 3.10

Table 2-2 (Continued) Environmental Effects of the Preferred Alternative and the No-Action Alternative, Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi

Resource (Applicable Section)	Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2)	No Action (Alternative 5)
Socio Economics (Chapter 4.11)	Because the proposed project does not include personnel or student load changes, and construction activities will not impact the off-base population, the Proposed Action would not significantly impact socioeconomic resources.	No change from the baseline condition as described in Chapter 3.11
Environmental Justice (Chapter 4.12)	Because the Proposed Action would occur entirely within the boundaries of Keesler AFB, there would be no disproportionately high and/or adverse effect from the Proposed Action at Keesler AFB and the project would be in full compliance with EO 12898. Therefore, the Proposed Action would not have an environmental justice impact.	No change from the baseline condition as described in Chapter 3.12

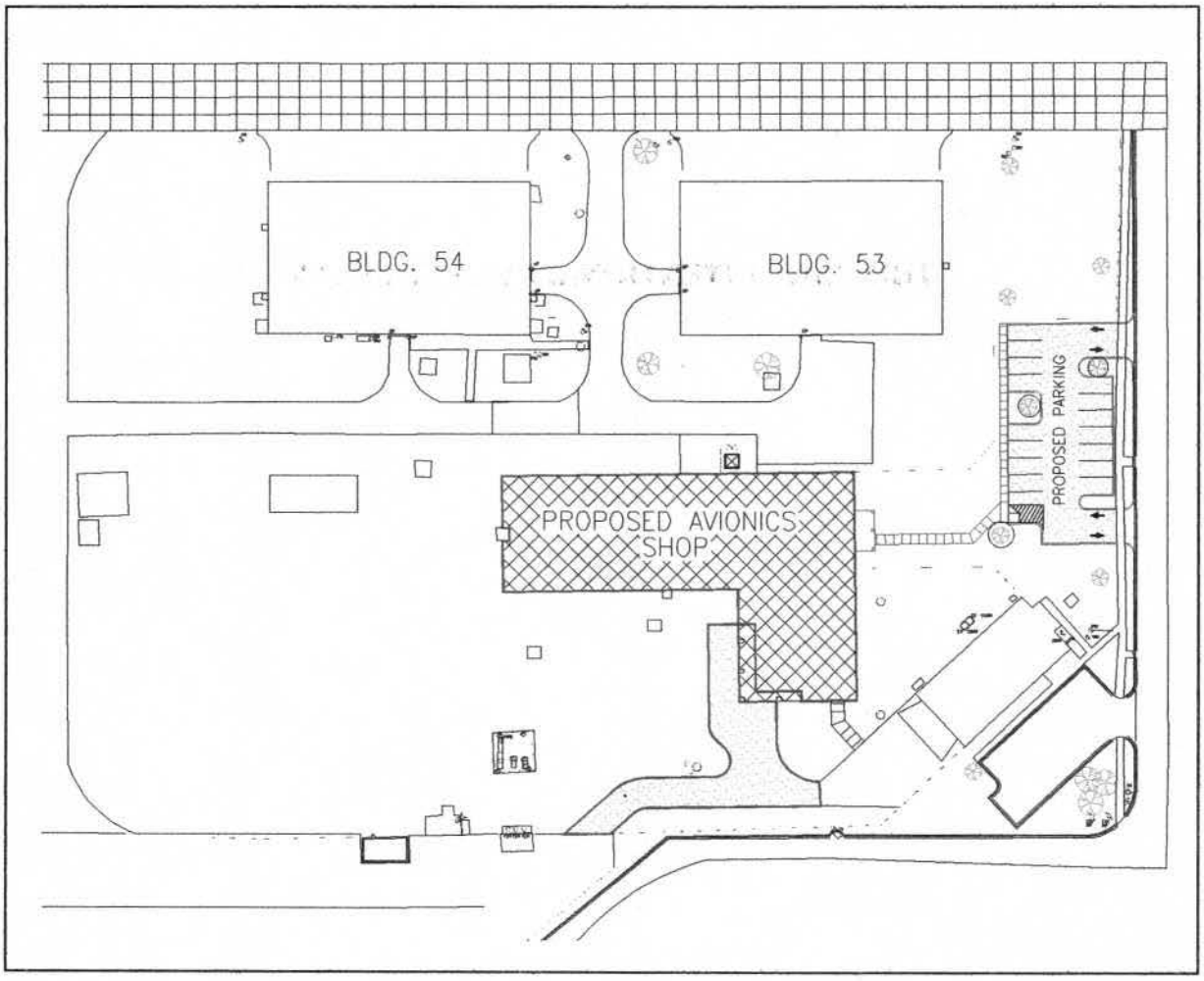

Figure 2-2 Preliminary Site Plan for the 403rd Avionics Shop Facility

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CHAPTER 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This chapter describes the existing environment that could be affected by, or could affect the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative at Keesler AFB. Within this context, only those base-specific components relevant to the potential impacts are described in detail.

3.1 Installation Location, History, and Current Mission

Keesler AFB is located in Harrison County, Mississippi, within the boundaries of the City of Biloxi (Figure 1-1). The base is located on a peninsula bordered by the Back Bay of Biloxi to the north and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. U.S. Highway 90 parallels the southern boundary of the base and provides access to Interstate 10 via U.S. Highways 49 and 110. The base occupies approximately 1,678 acres (679 ha) of land (Parsons 2001).

Keesler AFB was activated in June, 1941 as a training center for aircraft mechanics. Prior to occupation by the USAF, a small public airfield occupied the area. After WWII, Keesler AFB was designated as a permanent military base. Electronics, communications, personnel, and pilot training programs were added later to the existing training programs. In 1947, the radar training school was transferred to Keesler AFB from Boca Raton, Florida. Communications and control courses were transferred to the base from Scott AFB, Illinois, in 1958. Personnel and administrative career training were transferred from Amarillo AFB, Texas, to Keesler AFB in 1968. In 1967, the USAF Pilot Training School was activated at the base. The training program used T-28 aircraft and operated from 1967 until 1973.

The current mission of Keesler AFB focuses on four main areas: technical training and flying operations, medical care, logistics, and support. The 81st Training Wing (TRW) consists of the headquarters and related staff, as well as four training groups: the 81st Training Group, 81st Medical Group, the 81st Logistics Group, and the 81st Support Group. The 81st Training Group consists of eight technical and training squadrons and is responsible for technical and flying training at Keesler AFB. The 81st Medical Group, consisting of six squadrons, operates a large multi-specialty hospital and clinics. The 81st Logistics Group, consisting of five squadrons, provides support to the 81st TRW in terms of electronic training systems, contracting, supply, and transportation. The 81st Support Group consists of five squadrons that support the people who use the base facilities, by providing engineering, communication, security, and essential services. In addition to the 81st TRW units, Keesler AFB is home to a variety of other organizations. Major tenant units are the Second Air Force, the 403 Wing (WG), and the 738th Engineering Installation Squadron (EIS).

3.2 Air Quality

Under the Clean Air Act (CAA), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) that limit the concentration levels of pollutants allowed to occur in ambient air (generally defined as the outdoor atmosphere nearest to ground level).

Six criteria pollutants were established: ozone (O_3; smog), lead (Pb), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur oxides (SO_X, measured as sulfur dioxide [SO_2]), and particulate matter (of 10 microns or less; PM_{10}; soot). O_3 does not occur directly from any source, but results from a series of reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NO_X) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in sunlight. All areas within the state are designated with respect to each of these six criteria pollutants as in "attainment" (in compliance with the standards) or "non-attainment" (not in compliance with the standards), or "unclassifiable" (insufficient data to classify) (James 2002).

Keesler AFB is located in Harrison County within the Mobile-Pensacola-Panama City-Southern Mississippi Interstate AQCR 5. The USEPA has designated the air quality within Harrison County as better than NAAQS for total suspended particulates (TSP) and SO_2, and unclassified for CO, lead, NO_2, O_3, and PM_{10} (Parsons 2001). Table 3-1 shows National and State Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Table 3-1 National and State Ambient Air Quality Standards

Criteria Pollutant	Averaging Time	Primary NAAQS[a,b,c]	Secondary NAAQS[a,b,d]	Mississippi Standards[a,b]
Carbon Monoxide	8-hour 1-hour	9 ppm (10 mg/m^3) 35 ppm (40 mg/m^3)	No standard No standard	9 ppm (10 mg/m^3) 35 ppm (40 mg/m^3)
Lead	Quarterly	1.5 µg/m^3	1.5 µg/m^3	1.5 µg/m^3
Nitrogen Dioxide	Annual	0.0543 ppm (100 µg/m^3)	0.0543 ppm (100 µg/m^3)	0.0543 ppm (100 µg/m^3)
Ozone	1 hour[e]	0.12 ppm (235 µg/m^3)	0.12 ppm (235 µg/m^3)	0.12 ppm (235 µg/m^3)
PM_{10}	Annual 24-hour	50 µg/m^3 150 µg/m^3	50 µg/m^3 150 µg/m^3	50 µg/m^3 150 µg/m^3
Sulfur Oxides (measured as SO_2)	Annual 24-hour 3-hour	0.03 ppm (80 µg/m^3) 0.14 ppm (365 µg/m^3) No standard	No standard No standard 0.50 ppm (1,300 µg/m^3)	0.03 ppm (80 µg/m^3) 0.14 ppm (365 µg/m^3) No standard

PM_{10} Particles with aerodynamic diameters less than or equal to a nominal 10 micrometers.

a The 8-hour primary and secondary ambient air quality standards are met at a monitoring site when the average of the annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour average O_3 concentration is less than or equal to 0.08ppm.

b The NAAQS and Mississippi standards are based on standard temperature and pressure of 25 degrees Celsius and 760 millimeters of mercury.

c National Primary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary to protect the public health with an adequate margin of safety. Each state must attain the primary standards no later than three years after the SIP is approved by the USEPA.

d National Secondary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary to protect the public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects of a pollutant. Each state must attain the secondary standards within a "reasonable time" after the SIP is approved by the USEPA.

3.3 Water Resources

3.3.1 Surface Water

The surface water hydrology at Keesler AFB consists of several units. The stormwater sewer system dominates the surface water hydrology in the interior of the base. Two small manmade lakes exist on the golf course. There is no central stream that drains the base. Small tidal creeks along the northern edge of the base provide drainage into the Back Bay of Biloxi. The Back Bay of Biloxi and its coastal tidal marshes are considered environmentally sensitive areas.

Several small tidal creeks near Keesler AFB contribute little fresh water to the system during dry conditions. However, during rainstorms, the creeks receive stormwater runoff from the base. The two largest, Bayou LaPorte and Keegan Bayou, are located to the west and east of the base, respectively. Between the two bayous are numerous small tidal creeks located at the discharge points of stormwater outfalls. At least three of these drain into the marsh to the north of the golf course.

The base was issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (No. MSR001362) from the MDEQ on June 4, 1999, to operate its stormwater collection, treatment, and disposal system. The Keesler AFB stormwater system consists of open ditches, swales, culverts, and reinforced concrete piping. The majority of the stormwater drainage from the base flows north to the Back Bay of Biloxi. A system of oil-water separators is used to treat stormwater prior to discharge to the Back Bay of Biloxi. Drainage from a portion of the base flows south through the City of Biloxi's storm drainage system to the Mississippi Sound. Surface drainage on Keesler AFB is divided into 29 drainage areas. Of the 29 surface drainage areas, six are associated with industrial type activities, and the remaining drainage areas are associated with small residential and commercial development (Parsons 2001). Most of the system adequately supports the rainfall received at the base. However, during heavy periods of rainfall some of the drainage systems become overloaded, contributing to flooding in the vicinity of the site. The majority of the proposed site is impervious surface. Drainage at the site is accomplished by a series of storm drains that direct runoff to the Back Bay of Biloxi. (Chiniche 2002)

3.3.2 Groundwater

Several major hydrogeologic units exist in the area of Keesler AFB: the coastal deposits surficial aquifer, the Citronelle Aquifer, and the Miocene aquifer system (Parsons 2001). The surficial, or uppermost aquifer occurs under water table conditions within the Pamlico Sand. This formation consists of Holocene or Pleistocene age unconsolidated terrace or alluvial deposits of sand. These sands vary between 1 and 75 feet in thickness and are of regional extent. The Citronelle Aquifer is the shallowest significant source of groundwater in much of southern Mississippi. Composed of the Citronelle Formation (Pliocene), this unit comprises many discontinuous and hydrogeologically independent aquifers and consists principally of sand and gravel with lenses and layers of clay; however, the extent of the Citronelle formation is unclear in the immediate vicinity of the base. The thickness of the formation is highly variable; reported values of the average saturated thickness range from 45 to 80 feet. The Graham Ferry Formation (Pliocene), Pascagoula Formation (Miocene), Hattiesburg Formation (Miocene), and the Catahoula Sandstone (Miocene) are collectively identified as the Miocene aquifer system. This system of aquifers consists of lenticular beds of sand in which accurate correlation of individual sand beds is not possible for long distances. These sand beds range in thickness from a few feet to several hundred feet and are separated by shale or clay beds. Groundwater serves as the principal source of drinking water at Keesler AFB and for the City of Biloxi. Within the Gulfport-Biloxi-Ocean Springs coastal area, municipalities, industries, and Keesler AFB are the heaviest users of groundwater, which is obtained primarily from deep wells in the Miocene aquifer system. In the Biloxi area, large sandy aquifers located at depths of 600, 800, and 1,200 feet are the most extensively used.

3.3.3 Floodplains

Flooding is a concern near Keesler AFB, and parts of the installation fall within the 100-year floodplain. Major portions of the South Pine Haven, Oak Park, and Harrison Court housing areas lie within the 500-year floodplain. Tropical storms and hurricanes not only produce torrential rainfall, but also tidal surges that cause flooding. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has predicted storm-induced flood tides 12.5 feet above MSL every 100 years and 6 feet above MSL every 10 years for the Keesler AFB area. The proposed site for the new facility is not located within the 100-year or 500-year floodplain.

3.3.4 Wetlands

The Mobile District USACE conducted a wetlands survey on Keesler AFB in 1991. Based on this delineation, the base contains 22 acres (8.9 ha) of jurisdictional wetlands located along the Back Bay of Biloxi. Coastal wetlands and salt marsh exist in the northwest portion of the base along the shore of the Back Bay (Figure 2-1). These marshes are dominated by black needlerush (*Juncus roemerianus*) and smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*). The base is currently updating the wetland delineation for Keesler AFB (Daniel 2002). No wetlands are located on or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action site.

3.4 Earth Resources

3.4.1 Physiography and Geology

This region of Mississippi is located within the Coastal Meadows or Flatwoods topographical division of the Gulf Coast Region. The Coastal Meadows are essentially synonymous with the Pamlico Plain, one of three broad classifications of landforms in the East Gulf subdivision of southern Mississippi. The Pamlico Plain is generally flat or gently rolling with elevations averaging from 5 to 30 feet above MSL.

The base is located on a narrow peninsula running west to east with the Back Bay of Biloxi to the north and the Mississippi Sound, part of the Gulf of Mexico, to the south. On-base elevations range from nearly sea level in the marshes along the Back Bay of Biloxi shoreline to 32.5 feet above MSL near the southwest portion of the base.

The coastal area of Mississippi is underlain by a series of unconsolidated estuarine and deltaic sediments ranging in age from Miocene to recent. These sediments are not easily separated into rock type layers. As a basis of differentiation, consideration is given first to paleontological evidence and second to lithology. The significant geologic units present in coastal Mississippi include the Pleistocene and Holocene coastal and terrace deposits and alluvium, which are underlain in turn by the Citronelle Formation (Pliocene), Graham Ferry Formation (Pliocene), Pascagoula Formation (Miocene), Hattiesburg Formation (Miocene), and the Catahoula Sandstone (Miocene).

3.4.2 Soils

The following soils have been identified within the area of the Biloxi Peninsula occupied by Keesler AFB: Eustis, Eustis-Poarch, Handsboro, Harleston, Lakeland, Ponzer-Smithton, Plummer, and Sulfaquepts (USDA 1975).

Eustis and Harleston are the dominant soils overall, however, Handsboro and Eustis-Poarch soil types dominate the coastal marsh areas of the base. The Eustis, Eustis-Poarch, Harleston, and Lakeland soils are all formed on sandy or loamy upland materials. Eustis, Harleston, and Lakeland soils are found principally on ridge tops with gentle slopes of less than 5 percent; Eustis-Poarch soils are found in small parcels in slightly rougher areas with slopes of 8 to 17 percent. The soils of these four types occur across more than 95 percent of the surface area of the base. These soils are dry and well to excessively drained. Permeability is rapid in the sandy Lakeland soils and decreases as the amount of loam increases. The Poarch portion of the Eustis-Poarch association is the least permeable with a moderate to moderately slow permeability.

Handsboro soils are organic soils formed in highly decomposed plant residues and thin mineral layers. These soils are found beside salt or brackish water at elevations fewer than 2 feet and are subjected to periodic flooding during high tide. Handsboro soils are moderately permeable and poorly drained.

The erosion potential is low for all soils found on base because of the sandy nature (moderate to rapid permeabilities) and the minimal slopes. Shrink-swell potential is low for all soils on base except for the upper, mucky layer of Ponzer soils.

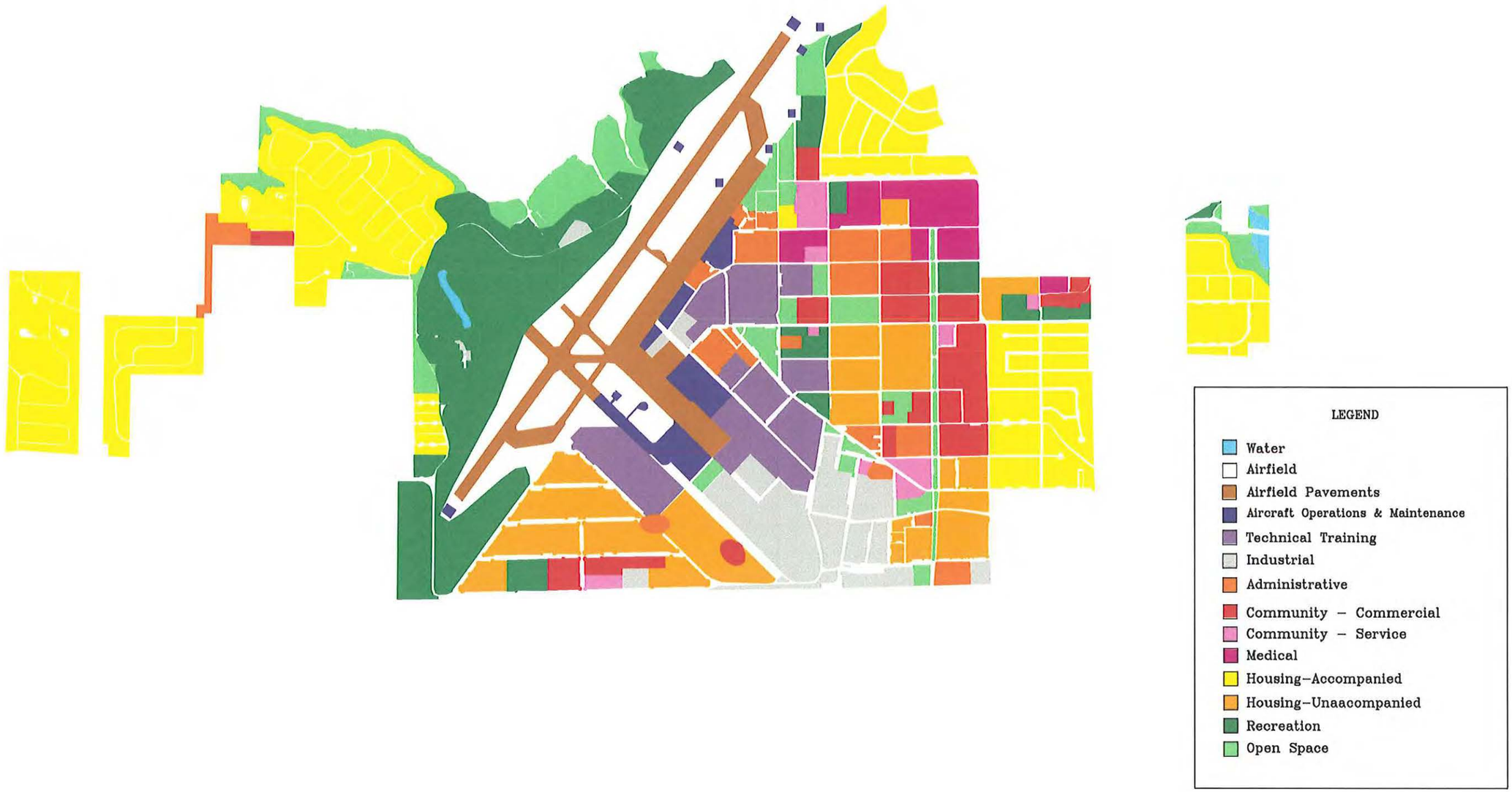
3.5 Noise

Noise at Keesler AFB is characteristic of flying operations noise at most Air Force installations and civilian airports. During periods of no aircraft activity, noise from base activities results primarily from aircraft maintenance and shop operations, ground traffic movement, occasional construction, and similar sources. This noise is almost entirely restricted to the base itself and is comparable to sounds that occur in adjacent communities (USAF 2000).

Airfield operations are the predominant source of noise in the vicinity of Keesler AFB. Aircraft activity at the base consists of mainly military and limited general aviation operations. Baseline noise conditions from aircraft operations at Keesler AFB were defined using the Air Force developed NOISEMAP (Version 6.5) modeling program (USAF 1990). This model indicates all existing facilities are located within the DNL 65 dBA or greater noise environment .

3.6 Land Use

Keesler AFB is situated on a coastal plain in an area between the cities of Biloxi and Gulfport, Mississippi. Portions of the northern boundary of the base coincide with the Back Bay of Biloxi. Most of the land is improved and/or developed. The runway and flight line facilities are located in the western portion of the base, while the administrative, support, and service facilities are located in the eastern portion. Keesler AFB completed a General Plan in July 1996 that details the installation's existing and future land use plans (See Figure 3-1). The 13 land use categories are: airfield (aprons, runways, and taxiways), aircraft operations and maintenance, industrial, technical training, administrative, community commercial, community service, medical, accompanied (family) housing (including off-base housing areas), unaccompanied housing, recreation, water, and open space. Urban development within the City of Biloxi occurs to the east, south, and west of the base (Parsons 2001). Land uses surrounding Keesler AFB primarily consist of strip commercial development along major roads and intersections, and single and multi-family residential units.



SOURCE: Keesler AFB Planning

FIGURE 3–1
KEESLER AFB LAND USE CLASSIFICATION

KEESLER AFB, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

3.7 Infrastructure and Utilities

3.7.1 Water

Keesler AFB obtains its drinking water from 7 of 12 existing wells located on base. These wells reach down through 600 feet of sand into unconfined aquifers located in the Miocene system, a geological formation that runs along most of the Mississippi coast. Each well can pump 500 to 1,000 gallons per minute. The base has the capacity to store 2.4 million gallons of water in six 400,000-gallon water towers. Over 40 miles of piping traverse the base.

3.7.2 Wastewater

More than 400,000 linear feet of sewer mains compose the Keesler AFB wastewater collection system. The system can accommodate a wastewater flow of approximately 3.24 million gallons per day (mgd). Wastewater from the installation is pumped to the West Biloxi Sewage Treatment Plant (USAF 2000a).

3.7.3 Energy

Electricity is supplied by Mississippi Power via the Gulfport Power Plant. Natural gas is supplied to the base via a high pressure main. There are approximately 370,000 linear feet of gas mains in the base distribution system.

3.7.4 Stormwater Management

The Keesler AFB stormwater system predominately consists of open ditches and swales. Most of the system adequately supports the rainfall received at the base (USAF 1999). A National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit has been issued by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) for the six outfalls from Keesler AFB. Stormwater runoff is discharged to the Back Bay of Biloxi (Chiniche 2002).

3.7.5 Solid Waste Management

Municipal solid waste (MSW) at Keesler AFB is managed in accordance with the guidelines specified in AFI 32-7042, *Solid and Hazardous Waste Compliance* (Parsons 2001). In general, AFI 32-7042 establishes the requirement for installations to have a solid waste management program that incorporates the following: a solid waste management plan; procedures for handling, storage, collection, and disposal of solid waste; record-keeping and reporting; and pollution prevention . A service contractor collects and disposes MSW from Keesler AFB in the Pecan Grove Municipal Landfill located in Pass Christian, Mississippi (Pahlavan 2002).

3.7.6 Transportation

The base design consists of numerous streets and smaller blocks that create traffic control concerns. Larcher Boulevard, a primary road for the base, connects the main gate and the medical center. Ploesti Drive serves as the primary road carrying traffic from off base areas to the west. Meadows Road, leading from Gate 1, is a third primary road. Traffic problems occur in the western part of the base where an outdated street grid built in WWII runs in the direction of the runway and abandoned crosswind runway rather than in the north-south direction.

3.8 Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Wastes

3.8.1 Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Wastes

Keesler AFB is registered as a municipal large-quantity generator of hazardous wastes. In calendar year 2001 (CY01), Keesler AFB disposed of approximately 6,515 pounds (2,464 kilograms [kg]) of hazardous waste (Daniel 2002). Keesler AFB has a Part B Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit for storage and handling of wastes (Parsons 2001).

Hazardous wastes generated at Keesler AFB include spent solvents, thinners, strippers, paint waste, laboratory chemicals, and unused materials considered as waste or products containing hazardous materials that have exceeded their shelf life. Other hazardous wastes generated at Keesler AFB include turbine oil, hydraulic fluid, antifreeze, batteries, and florescent lights.

3.8.2 Pollution Prevention Program

The Air Force has taken a proactive and dynamic role in developing a Pollution Prevention Program (PPP) to implement the regulatory mandates in the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990; EO 12856 Federal Compliance with Right-to-Know Laws and Pollution Prevention Requirements; EO 13101 Federal Acquisition, Recycling, and Waste Prevention; and EO 12902 Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation at Federal Facilities. The Air Force PPP incorporates the following principles in priority order:

- Generation of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants will be reduced or eliminated at the source whenever feasible (source reduction);
- Pollution that cannot be prevented will be recycled in an environmentally safe manner; and
- Disposal, or other releases to the environment, will be employed only as a last resort and will be conducted in an environmentally safe manner, according to regulatory guidance.

AFI 32-7080, dated 12 May 1994, provides the directive requirements for the Air Force PPP. The AFI incorporates by reference applicable federal, DoD, and Air Force level regulations and directives for pollution prevention. Keesler AFB has a P2 MAP that incorporates appropriate management, measurement, and reporting goals to comply with program elements of the Air Force PPP (USAF 2000).

3.8.3 Installation Restoration Program

The Installation Restoration Program (IRP) is a subcomponent of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP), which became law under SARA of 1986. The IRP requires each DoD installation to identify, investigate, and clean up HW disposal sites. According to the Keesler AFB personnel, 71 IRP sites and 15 areas of concern on-base were initially identified as potentially contaminated. All sites initially identified have been closed or eliminated from further investigation except for the 11 active IRP sites listed below in Table 3-2 (Noble 2000 as cited in Pasons 2001).

Table 3-2 Installation Restoration Program Site Status, Keesler AFB

Number	Description	Site Status
WP-14	TEL Sludge Disposal Site, Annex 1	DD/SB - Complete; No Further Action
LF-4	Landfill 1 and Associated Sites	CMS - Complete; LTM, LUC
WP-13	TEL Sludge Disposal Site	CMS - Complete; LTM, LUC
RW-15	Low-Level Radioactive Waste Vault	CMS - Complete; LTM, LUC
LF-2	Landfill 2	CMS - In Revision
LF-3	Landfill 3 (includes SWMUs 3, 4, 6, 10, and AOC E)	ISM - Complete; CMS - Complete; Cover, LTM, LUC
WP-11	Etching Shop & Silver Recovery Area	DD/SB - In Revision; Long -Term Monitoring, LUC
OT-9	Old CE Storage Area	CMS - Complete - Removal/Disposal
ST-6	BX Service Station Abandoned UST	DD/SB - LUC, Monitored Natural Attenuation
ST-7	Old Military Service Station USTs	DD/SB - LTM and Land Use Controls
ST-8	Building 4038 Abandoned UST	DD/SB - LUC, Monitored Natural Attenuation

Source: Noble 1999 as cited in USAF 2000.
DD/SB - Decision Document/Statement of Basis
LTM - Long Term Monitoring
RFI - RCRA Facility
CMS - Corrective Measures Study
ISM - Interim/Stabilization Measure Investigation
LUC - Land Use Controls
SWMU - Solid Waste Management Unit

3.9 Biological Resources

3.9.1 Wildlife and Vegetation

Much of the base, including the project site, has been developed by construction of buildings, paving for runways, roadways, or parking. This development and the high level of human activity have limited wildlife species on base in both numbers and diversity. Wildlife animals found on base are primarily limited to those adapted to disturbance and development.

Mammals potentially occurring on base include raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), rice rat (*Oryzomys palustris*), cotton rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*), Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), and the house mouse (*Mus musculus*).

Bird species that may occur on-base include Northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), brown thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*), cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), and mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) (USAF 1995).

3.9.2 Threatened, Endangered, and Special-Status Species

Keesler AFB has contacted the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Mississippi Natural Heritage Program (MSNHP) regarding the actual or potential occurrence of state or federally listed threatened and endangered species, or species listed by the Heritage Program that could potentially occur in the vicinity of the base. At the present time there are no federally listed, endangered or threatened plant and/or animal species that occur on the base (Parsons 2001). However, several federally listed species potentially occur in the vicinity of the base (Table 3-3).

Table 3-3 Federal and State Listed Species Potentially Occurring in Harrison County, Mississippi

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	
		Federal	State
Louisiana black bear	*Ursus americanus luteolus*	Threatened	--
Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Threatened	Endangered
Brown pelican	*Pelicanus occidentalis*	Endangered	Endangered
Mississippi sandhill crane	*Grus canadensis pulla*	Endangered	Endangered
Snowy plover	*Charadrius alexandrinus*	--	Endangered
Piping plover	*Charadrius melodus*	Threatened	Endangered
Red-cockaded woodpecker	*Picoides borealis*	Endangered	Endangered
Bewick's wren	*Thryomanes bewickii*	--	Endangered
Gulf sturgeon	*Acipenser oxyrhynchus desotoi*	Threatened	Endangered
Manatee	*Trichechus manatus*	Endangered	Endangered
Green sea turtle	*Chelonia mydas*	Endangered	Endangered
Loggerhead sea turtle	*Caretta caretta*	Threatened	Endangered
Kemp's Ridley sea turtle	*Lepidochelys kempi*	Endangered	Endangered
Gopher tortoise	*Gopherus polyphemus*	Threatened	Endangered
Eastern indigo snake	*Drymarchon corais couperi*	Threatened	Endangered
Southern hognose snake	*Heterodon simus*	--	Endangered
Black pine snake	*Pituophis melanoleucus lodingi*	--	Endangered

Sources: MSNHP 2000 and Parsons 2001).

3.9.3 Wetlands

A wetland survey of Keesler AFB was conducted in 1991. Wetlands on the base, primarily composed of coastal wetland and salt marsh, exist in the northwest portion of the base along the shore of Back Bay. The marshes are dominated by black needlerush (*Juncus roemerianus*) and smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*). No wetlands are located at or in the vicinity of the project site (Parsons 2001).

3.10 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources at Keesler AFB are managed in accordance with environmental laws; Air Force Regulation 126-7, *Historic Preservation*; AFI 32-7061; the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended; and MDAH guidelines.

3.10.1 Historic Resources

In 1988, Keesler AFB personnel completed an assessment of the base's pre-WWII and WWII-era buildings, and the documentation was reviewed by MDAH. One pre-WWII building was identified as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This building, the Old Biloxi Hangar (Building #288), dates to 1938 and is associated with early aviation in Mississippi. No WWII-era buildings were considered eligible for the NRHP. There are no historic resources located on or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action site.

3.10.2 Archaeological Resources

No prehistoric or historical archaeological sites have been recorded on Keesler AFB property (Thorne 1993, Husley 1996). An archaeological assessment and management recommendation study for Keesler AFB was conducted in 1993. Based on a survey of portions of the base and a review of historic photographs and maps, the study concluded that intensive construction on the majority of the base property had disturbed any archaeological sites that may have existed. The only exception identified was the Federal Reserve Park in the northeast corner of the base, where, due to less ground disturbance, archaeological sites may remain. In 1996, a report was produced through the Legacy Program. This report concurred with the archaeological assessment and management recommendation study regarding the low potential for archaeological resources at Keesler AFB. The Legacy study included on-site archaeological investigations that consisted of a pedestrian survey along the Back Bay shoreline and a few selected shovel tests within the Reserve Park. No archaeological resources were found during these investigations (Husley 1996).

3.11 Socioeconomic Resources

The population associated directly with Keesler AFB in 2000 consisted of 12,110 military personnel, including 5,752 on-base and 6,358 off-base military personnel, and 3,843 civilian personnel (USAF 2000). The total payroll for Keesler AFB in 2000 was $409,645,853 (USAF 2000). For 2000, Keesler AFB had an economic impact of $1,435,039,746 on the local economy, creating 4,842 secondary and indirect jobs (USAF 2000).

3.12 Environmental Justice

Executive Order (EO) 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, encourages federal facilities to achieve "environmental justice" by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

CHAPTER 4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter provides the scientific and analytic basis for comparing the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative. The probable effects of each alternative on environmental resources are described.

4.1 Mission

No change to Keesler AFB's current mission would result from implementation of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would provide for a more modern and efficient shop facility with space for office and training facilities in addition to the repair and maintenance facilities. This new facility will allow the base to meet mission requirements more efficiently through the provisions of more efficient operations of the 403rd Avionics Group.

4.2 Air Quality

Proposed Action

Implementation of the Proposed Action (Alternative 2) would generate short-term air emissions. Fugitive dust and PM would be generated during the construction of the 403rd Avionics Shop Facility. Once the construction is complete, and the construction area is stabilized, the fugitive dust and PM should be reduced to previous levels observed during normal base operations.

No-Action Alternative

There would be no impact on the ambient air quality within AQCR 5 as a consequence of the No-Action Alternative.

Mitigative Actions

Potential criteria pollutant emissions associated with the Proposed Action do not exceed significance criteria requirements. Therefore, no mitigative actions for improving the ambient air quality would be required.

4.3 Water Resources

Proposed Action

4.3.1 Surface Water

The construction of the 403rd Avionics Shop Facility will be located within an existing developed area of the base. Stormwater run-off during construction of the facility would not be expected to impact surface water resources.

There will be a slight increase in impervious surfaces associated with the new shop facility, however, the increase is not considered significant enough to affect surface water drainage features on the base. Existing stormwater catchment basins and piping are sufficient to collect, transport, and manage the stormwater run-off from the paved parking areas associated with the new shop facility.

4.3.2 Groundwater

The proposed 403rd Avionics Shop Facility will not require any additional groundwater resources beyond that currently used for the existing shop facility.

4.3.3 Floodplains

The proposed project will not be located in or near the 100-year floodplain. Therefore, no impacts to the floodplain would occur under the Proposed Action.

4.3.4 Wetlands

The preferred site does not contain any wetlands, nor is the site adjacent to any wetlands. No impact to wetlands would occur by implementing the Proposed Action.

No-Action Alternative

There would be no water resources impacts as a consequence of the No-Action Alternative.

Mitigative Actions

No water resources impacts are anticipated at Keesler AFB under the Proposed Action. Therefore, no mitigative actions, beyond best management practices for surface runoff control and water conservation, would be required.

4.4 Earth Resources

Proposed Action

4.4.1 Physiography and Geology

The ground surface would be disrupted during the construction of the 403rd Avionics Shop Facility. Construction would occur within areas previously disturbed and modified by facility construction. Therefore, the impacts to physiographic and geologic resources would be minimal.

4.4.2 Soils

Construction of the shop facility would occur within an area where the soils have been previously disturbed and modified by prior building construction. Therefore, the potential for soils impact would be minimal. Implementation of the Proposed Action may potentially increase soil erosion caused by disturbance of the ground surface during construction. The use of best management practices such as rock berms, silt fences, and single point construction entries would minimize soil erosion.

No-Action Alternative

The baseline condition, which generates no impacts, would continue at Keesler AFB. There would be no earth resources impacts as a consequence of the No-Action Alternative.

Mitigative Actions

No impact to earth resources would be anticipated under the Proposed Action. Therefore, no mitigative actions would be required. Implementation of best management practices such as rock berms, silt fences, and single point construction entries would minimize the potential for soil erosion.

4.5 Noise

Proposed Action

Implementation of the Proposed Action under Alternative 2 would result in intermittent increased noise levels during construction activities. This level of noise would be temporary and would occur only during daylight hours. Because of the temporary and limited time periods of construction and demolition-generated noise, only short-term, minor noise impacts are anticipated for areas in the immediate vicinity of the site. Long-term noise impacts from operation and maintenance activities at the proposed facility would be the same as those observed at the current facility.

No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the baseline conditions, which generate noise impacts, would continue at Keesler AFB. Thus, there would be no change to the baseline noise conditions and no impacts would be anticipated.

Mitigative Actions

No mitigation actions would be required at Keesler AFB.

4.6 Land Use

Proposed Action

The preferred site would be located within Keesler AFB's planning boundaries. The Proposed Action would be consistent with the base's land-use management strategy and would be compatible with surrounding land-use activities. There would be no affect to land-use designations or existing land uses as a result of implementing the Proposed Action.

No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the baseline condition would continue at Keesler AFB. Thus, there would be no change to the land use conditions and no impacts would be anticipated.

Mitigative Actions

No mitigation actions would be required at Keesler AFB.

4.7 Infrastructure and Utilities

Proposed Action

4.7.1 Water

The Proposed Action would not result in a net change in water usage.

4.7.2 Wastewater

The Proposed Action would not result in a net change in wastewater production.

4.7.3 Energy

The Proposed Action should not result in a significant change in electricity and natural gas usage. There may be some electricity and natural gas savings associated with the use of more efficient heating and air conditioning equipment in the new facility, and the improved insulation and building materials used in building construction.

4.7.4 Stormwater Management

All proposed construction would occur within the developed portion of the base. The Proposed Action cause a slight increase in impervious surface area. Impervious areas for parking and sidewalks will increase, however, the drainage and stormwater management features of the Proposed Action should provide adequate treatment and management. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action at Keesler AFB would not result in significant impacts to stormwater management.

4.7.5 Solid Waste Management

Any solid wastes that would be generated from the proposed facility would be disposed of in a state-approved landfill. The adverse effects from additional solid waste generated by the construction, demolition, or operation of the proposed facility would not be significant.

4.7.6 Transportation

The Proposed Action would not result in any changes to the transportation network on Keesler AFB, nor would it affect the current traffic flow or traffic pattern on base.

4.8 Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Wastes

Proposed Action

4.8.1 Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Wastes

It is anticipated that the quantity of products containing HM (such as oil, grease, hydraulic fluid, solvents, and paint) used during the proposed construction of the 403rd Avionics Shop Facility would be minimal and temporary. Construction contractors would be responsible for the HM used during the project. Therefore, HM management at Keesler AFB would not be impacted by the proposed construction activities.

It is anticipated that any HW generated from the proposed construction the shop facility would be negligible, and these activities would not have any affect on the base HW management program. It is not anticipated that the volume of HW generated from the operation of the new 403rd Avionics Shop Facility will be any greater than the volume of materials generated at the current facility.

4.8.2 Pollution Prevention Program

Annual quantities of ODSs and EPCRA chemicals purchased, transfers of HW, disposal of MSW, and energy consumption would remain unchanged with the implementation of the Proposed Action. Any unforeseen increases in any of the PPP areas would be minimal and would not prevent the base from achieving its pollution prevention reduction goals.

4.8.3 Installation Restoration Program

Since the location of the proposed facilities is not on or adjacent to any of the 11 active IRP sites, it is anticipated that IRP management would not be affected by implementation of the Proposed Action at Keesler AFB.

No-Action Alternative

The baseline condition, which generates no impacts, would continue at Keesler AFB. There would be no HM or HW impacts as a consequence of the No-Action Alternative.

Mitigative Actions

No significant impacts requiring mitigation have been identified.

4.9 Biological Resources

Proposed Action

4.9.1 Wildlife and Vegetation

The construction activities associated with the Proposed Action would occur within a developed, maintained area with a highly modified and disturbed landscape. The construction activities would not affect wildlife reproduction, movement, or habitat, and there would be no impacts to vegetation outside the developed regions of the base. Therefore, biological resources at Keesler AFB would be unchanged from the baseline condition.

4.9.2 Threatened, Endangered, and Special-Status Species

No federal or state listed species are known to occur on Keesler AFB. The Proposed Action would have no adverse effect on the federal and state listed threatened, endangered, or special-status species that potentially occur in the vicinity of Keesler AFB.

4.9.3 Wetlands

No Proposed Action construction would occur in or near wetlands. Therefore, no impacts to wetlands would be anticipated under the Proposed Action.

No-Action Alternative

The baseline condition, which generates no impacts, would continue at Keesler AFB. There would be no adverse effects to biological resources as a consequence of the No-Action Alternative.

Mitigative Actions

Since no threatened, endangered, or special-status species, and no wildlife or vegetation would be impacted by the project, no mitigative measures would be required. However, continued use of best management practices would further minimize the potential for impacts on Keesler AFB.

4.10 Cultural Resources

Proposed Action

4.10.1 Historic Resources

The Old Biloxi Hangar is the only base building identified as being eligible for the NRHP.

4.10.2 Archaeological Resources

No archaeological resources have been identified at Keesler AFB. The CRMP includes contingency plans in the event of inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources, beginning with the immediate cessation of activity in the site vicinity, and initiation of consultation procedures with MDAH.

No Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, there would be no change from the baseline condition. Therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no adverse affect on any known historic or archaeological resources.

Mitigative Actions

Keesler Air Force Base is assuring it stays in compliance by working closely with the SHPO for all stages of the Old Biloxi Hangar renovation.

4.11 Socioeconomic Resources

Proposed Action

As a result of the Proposed Action, there would be no personnel relocations. Additionally, the labor force in the BGP MSA is sufficiently large that it can be assumed that no construction labor or other labor sources would relocate to the MSA as a result of the Proposed Action. Therefore, there would be no change in the local population and there would be no additional demand for off-base housing.

No-Action Alternative

The impacts of the No-Action Alternative would be similar to the baseline conditions described in Section 3 of this EA. There would be no change in the current level of impact as a consequence of the No-Action Alternative.

Mitigative Actions

No significant impacts have been identified requiring mitigation.

4.12 Environmental Justice

EO 12898 requires that each federal agency analyze the human health, economic, and social effects of federal actions, including the effects on minority communities and low-income communities. An environmental justice impact would occur if the federal action had disproportionately high and/or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would occur entirely within the boundaries of Keesler AFB. Therefore, there would be no disproportionately high and/or adverse effect from the Proposed Action at Keesler AFB and the project would be in full compliance with EO 12898. 4.13.2.

No-Action Alternative

The baseline condition, which generates no impacts, would continue at Keesler AFB. Therefore, there would be no disproportionately high and/or adverse effect as a consequence of the No-Action Alternative.

Mitigative Actions

No adverse effects were identified. Therefore, no mitigation would be necessary.

4.13 Unavoidable Adverse Environmental Impacts

Unavoidable impacts would result from the implementation of the Proposed Action. However, none of the impacts would be significant, and all are temporary. Noise from the facility construction activities would occur; however, the activities would take place during daytime hours and would be at levels that would not cause hearing impairment. Air emissions would also be produced during construction, but would be partly offset by reduced bus traffic resulting from the Proposed Action. The use of nonrenewable energy resources is unavoidable, but the amount used would be insignificant.

4.14 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

NEPA also requires that environmental analysis include identification of "... any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the Proposed Action should it be implemented." Irreversible and irretrievable resource commitments are related to the use of nonrenewable resources and the effects the use of these resources would have on consumption or destruction of a resource that could not be replaced in a reasonable period of time.

The irreversible environmental changes that could result from implementation of the Proposed Action include the consumption of material resources and energy resources.

Material resources used for the Proposed Action include materials for facility construction. The materials that would be consumed are not in short supply and are readily available from suppliers in the region. Use of these materials would not limit other unrelated construction activities and, therefore, would not be considered significant.

Energy resources would be irretrievably lost. These include petroleum-based products such as gasoline and diesel fuel. During facility construction, gasoline and diesel fuel would be used for operation of equipment and other vehicles. Consumption of these energy resources would not place a significant demand on their availability in the region. Therefore, no adverse impacts would be expected.

The use of human resources for facility construction is considered an irretrievable loss, only in that it would preclude such personnel from engaging in other work activities. However, the use of human resources for the Proposed Action represents employment opportunities and is considered beneficial.

CHAPTER 5 LIST OF PREPARERS

Name	Degree Professional Discipline	Project Responsibility	Years of Experience
Larry Lewis	B.S. Biology M.S. Biology	Project Management, Technical Review, Earth Resources, Hazardous Materials and Wastes	28
Julie Speetjens	B.S. Environmental Science	Socioeconomic Resources, Description of Proposed Actions and Alternatives	3
Lynn Roelke	B.S. Biology M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries	Biological Resources Cultural Resources	10
Dax Alexander	B.S. Civil Engineering	Land Use, Infrastructure & Utilities, Water Resources	5

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CHAPTER 6 LIST OF PERSONS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

This chapter lists the individuals consulted during the preparation of this EA.

6.1 Federal Agencies

Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi

Ruth, Don (81CES/CECB)
Bird, Eugene MSgt. (81 TRW/PA)
Daniel, George (81 CES/CEV)
James, Teddy (81 CES/CEV)
Kinman, Donald (81 CES/CECB)
Noble, Lisa (81 CES/CEV)
Shiyou, Robert (81 CES/CEV)

6.2 Other Organizations

Pahlavan, Kamron, Executive Director, Harrison County Wastewater and Solid Waste Management District, Gulfport, Mississippi

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CHAPTER 7 LIST OF REFERENCES

Chiniche 2002. Personal Communication with Brown & Mitchell, Inc. September 2002. Jim Chiniche, Civil Engineer, 81 CES/CE, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Daniel 2002. Personal Communication with Brown & Mitchell, Inc. September 2002. George Daniel, Natural Resources Manager, 81 CES/CE, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Husley, Val F. 1996. *Keesler AFB: A Legacy Study*, Keesler AFB Office of History, Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Mississippi

James 2002. Personal Communication with Brown & Mitchell, Inc. September 2002. Ted James, Air Quality Specialist, 81 CES/CE, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.

MSNHP 2000. Mississippi Natural Heritage Program, Ecological Communities and Special Plant and Animal List. Museum of Natural Science, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks, Jackson, Mississippi.

Pahlavan 2002. Personal Communication with Brown & Mitchell, Inc. September 2002. Kamron Pahlavan, Executive Director, Harrison County Wastewater and Solid Waste Management District, Gulfport, Mississippi.

Parsons Engineering, Science, Inc. July 2001. *Keesler Air Force Base Intergrated Natural Resources Management Plan,* Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, July 2001.

Thorne, Robert M. 1993. *Archaeological Site Identification and Management Recommendations, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi*, Center for Archaeological Research, University of Mississippi for the Interagency Archaeological Services Division, National Park Service, Atlanta, Georgia.

USAF 1990. United States Air Force, *Air Force Procedure for Predicting Aircraft Noise Around Airbases; Noise Exposure Model (NOISEMAP) User's Manual*, Report AAMRL-TR-90-011, Human Systems Division/Air Force Systems Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, February 1990.

USAF 1995. United States Air Force, *Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan*. Volumes One and Two. January 1995.

USAF 1999. United States Air Force, *Final RCRA Facility Investigation, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi*, April 1999.

USAF 1999b. United States Air Force, *Keesler Air Force Base Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan*, May 1999.

USAF 2000. United States Air Force, *Environmental Assessment WC/C-130J Aircraft Beddown and Operation, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi*, February 2000.

USAF 2000a. United States Air Force, *Draft Final Environmental Assessment, Training Vision Project, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi*. US Air Force Air Education and Training Command. September 2000.

USDA 1975. *Soil Survey of Harrison County, Mississippi*, United States Department of Agriculture, June1975.

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APPENDIX A

AIR FORCE FORM 813

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REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

REPORT CONTROL SYMBOL
RCS:

INSTRUCTIONS: *Section 1 to be completed by Proponent; Sections II and III to be completed by Environmental Planning Function. Continue on separate sheets as necessary. Reference appropriate item number(s).*

SECTION 1 - PROPONENT INFORMATION

1. TO *(Environmental Planning Function)*	2. FROM *(Proponent organization and functional address symbol)*	2a. TELEPHONE NO.
81CES/CEV	81 CES/CECB	7-5866

3. TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION
MAHG 03-3003 TECHNICAL TRAINING FACILITY, PHASE 2 (403rd AVIONICS)

4. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION *(Identify decision to be made and need date)*
Construct new 18000 sf facility for 403rd Avionics function. Existing facility in Hangar One will be demolished by MILCON project to construct new Tech Training Facility. Previous plan to relocate into Biloxi Hangar is not workable.

5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES *(DOPAA)* *(Provide sufficient details for evaluation of the total action)*
1. Construct new facility in area southwest of hangar 4253. 2. Do nothing.

6. PROPONENT APPROVAL *(Name and Grade)*	6a. SIGNATURE	6b. DATE
Ruth, Donald R., GS-11		30 JUL 2002

SECTION II - PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY. *(Check appropriate box and describe potential environmental effects including cumulative effects.) (+ = positive effect; O = no effect; - = adverse effect; U = unknown effect)*	+	O	-	U
7. AIR INSTALLATION COMPATIBLE USE ZONE/LAND USE *(Noise, accident potential, encroachment, etc.)*		X		
8. AIR QUALITY *(Emissions, attainment status, state implementation plan, etc.)*		X		
9. WATER RESOURCES *(Quality, quantity, source, etc.)*		X		
10. SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH *(Asbestos/radiation/chemical exposure, explosives safety quantity-distance, etc.)*		X		
11. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE *(Use/storage/generation, solid waste, etc.)*				
12. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES *(Wetlands/floodplains, flora, fauna, etc.)*		X		
13. CULTURAL RESOURCES *(Native American burial sites, archaeological, historical, etc.)*		X		
14. GEOLOGY AND SOILS *(Topography, minerals, geothermal, Installation Restoration Program, seismicity, etc.)*		X		
15. SOCIOECONOMIC *(Employment/population projections, school and local fiscal impacts, etc.)*		X		
16. OTHER *(Potential impacts not addressed above.)*				

SECTION III - ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS DETERMINATION

17		
		PROPOSED ACTION QUALIFIES FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CATEX) # _____; OR
	X	PROPOSED ACTION DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR A CATEX; FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS IS REQUIRED

18. REMARKS
Keesler AFB MS is located in an area that is in attainment; therefore, a conformity determination is not required.

19. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING FUNCTION CERTIFICATION *(Name and Grade)*	19a. SIGNATURE	19b. DATE
JAMES J. CHINICHE, GS-13, DAF Chief, Environmental Flight		10/09/02

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APPENDIX B

INTERAGENCY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HARRISON

Before me, the undersigned Notary Public of Harrison County, Mississippi, personally appeared Markell Miles who, being by me first duly sworn, did depose and say that she is a clerk of The Sun Herald, a newspaper published in the city Gulfport, in Harrison County, Mississippi, and that publication of the notice, a copy of which is hereto attached, has been made in said paper 1 times in the following numbers and on the following dates of such paper, viz:

Vol. 119 No., 197 dated 21 day of April, 20 03
Vol. _____ No., _____ dated _____ day of _____, 20 ____
Vol. _____ No., _____ dated _____ day of _____, 20 ____
Vol. _____ No., _____ dated _____ day of _____, 20 ____
Vol. _____ No., _____ dated _____ day of _____, 20 ____
Vol. _____ No., _____ dated _____ day of _____, 20 ____
Vol. _____ No., _____ dated _____ day of _____, 20 ____

Affiant further states on oath that said newspaper has been established and published continuously in said county for a period of more than twelve months next prior to the first publication of said notice.

Markell Miles
Clerk

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of April, A.D., 20 03.

Ina Elaine Miles
Notary Public

My Commission Expires April 30, 2005

Printer's Fee ..... $ _____
Furnishing proof of publication ..... $ _____
TOTAL ..... $ _____

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability
Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the Draft Environmental Assessment of Fiscal Year 2003 403RD avionics Training Facility, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISS. A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) of Fiscal Year 2003 403RD Avionics Training Facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi has been prepared. The Air Force is proposing to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) based on this draft EA. The analysis considered potential effects of the proposed action on twelve resource areas: noise, land use, air quality, safety, infrastructure and utilities, geological resources, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, environmental justice and protection of children, and hazardous materials and waste management. The results, as found in the Draft EA, show that the proposed action would not have an adverse impact on the environment - indicating that a FONSI would be appropriate. An Environmental Impact Statement should not be necessary to implement the proposed action.

Copies of the Draft FONSI and EA showing the analysis are available for review at the reference desk of the Biloxi Library, 139 Lameuse Street, Biloxi, MS 39530.

Written comments and inquiries on the Draft FONSI and EA should be directed to Mr. George Daniel, 81 CES/CEV, 508 L. Street, Keesler AFB, MS 39534, (228)377-5823. Email comments to george.daniel@keesler.af.mil.

My Commission Expires April 30, 2005

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mississippi Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, Mississippi 39213
March 7, 2003

Mr. George Daniel
Department of the Air Force
81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB, Mississippi 39534-2115

Dear Mr. Daniel:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the revised Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) dated February 4, 2003, which was submitted by the Department of the Air Force. The proposal includes the replacement of the existing 403rd Avionics Training Facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Harrison County, Mississippi. Our comments are submitted in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-667e) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et.).

The Service concurs with the determination that the proposed activities, if implemented as described in the EA, will have no adverse affect on any federally listed species or Critical Habitats, or wetlands. However, if the proposed plan is modified or additional actions are identified, the Service should be notified prior to construction.

The Service welcomes the opportunity to work with the military in the development of projects and activities at Keesler Air Force Base. If you need additional information, please contact Paul Necaise of our coastal office, telephone: (228) 493-6631.

Sincerely,

Curtis B James

Curtis B. James
Assistant Field Supervisor

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
508 L STREET
KEESLER AFB MS 39534 2115

DATE: MAR 1 1 2003

FROM: STATE CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS

SUBJECT: REVIEW COMMENTS - Activity:
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A 403D AVIONICS TRAINING FACILITY AT KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPI.

State Application Identifier Number MS030218-003

Location: HARRISON

Contact: GEORGE DANIEL

The State Clearinghouse, in cooperation with state agencies interested or possibly affected, has completed the review process for the activity described above.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS COMPLIANCE:

(✓) We are enclosing the comments received from the state agencies for your consideration and appropriate actions. The remaining agencies involved in the review did not have comments or recommendations to offer at this time. A copy of this letter is to be attached to the application as evidence of compliance with Executive Order 12372 review requirements.

( ) Conditional clearance pending Archives and History's approval.

( ) None of the state agencies involved in the review had comments or recommendations to offer at this time. This concludes the State Clearinghouse review, and we encourage appropriate action as soon as possible. A copy of this letter is to be attached to the application as evidence of compliance with Executive Order 12372 review requirements.

( ) The review of this activity is being extended for a period not to exceed 60 days from the receipt of notification to allow adequate time for review.

COASTAL PROGRAM COMPLIANCE (Coastal area activities only):

( ) The activity has been reviewed and complies with the Mississippi Coastal Program. A consistency certification is to issued by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

( ) The activity has been reviewed and does not comply with the Mississippi Coastal Program.

cc: Funding Agency (As requested by applicant)

1301 Woolfolk Building, Suite E • Jackson, Mississippi 39201 • (601) 359-6762 • Fax (601) 359-6758

CD
CEV

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE
508 L STREET
KEESLER AFB MS 39534 2115

DATE: FEB 27 2003

FROM: STATE CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS

SUBJECT: REVIEW COMMENTS - Activity:
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 403RD AVIONICS TRAINING FACILITY AT KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPI.

State Application Identifier Number MS021118-004

Location: HARRISON

Contact: GEORGE DANIEL

The State Clearinghouse, in cooperation with state agencies interested or possibly affected, has completed the review process for the activity described above.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS COMPLIANCE:

(✓) We are enclosing the comments received from the state agencies for your consideration and appropriate actions. The remaining agencies involved in the review did not have comments or recommendations to offer at this time. A copy of this letter is to be attached to the application as evidence of compliance with Executive Order 12372 review requirements.

( ) Conditional clearance pending Archives and History's approval.

( ) None of the state agencies involved in the review had comments or recommendations to offer at this time. This concludes the State Clearinghouse review, and we encourage appropriate action as soon as possible. A copy of this letter is to be attached to the application as evidence of compliance with Executive Order 12372 review requirements.

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( ) The activity has been reviewed and complies with the Mississippi Coastal Program. A consistency certification is to issued by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

( ) The activity has been reviewed and does not comply with the Mississippi Coastal Program.

cc: Funding Agency (As requested by applicant)

1301 Woolfolk Building, Suite E • Jackson, Mississippi 39201 • (601) 359-6762 • Fax (601) 359-6758

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Historic Preservation Division
PO Box 571 • Jackson, MS 39205-0571 • 601 / 359-6940 • Fax 601 / 359-6955 • mdah.state.ms.us

February 19, 2003

Mr. James J. Chiniche
Department of the Air Force
81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB, Mississippi 39534-2115

Dear Mr. Chiniche:

RE: Proposed relocation of the 403rd Avionics Shop, Harrison County

We have reviewed your February 12, 2003, cultural resources assessment request for *the above referenced project proposal in accordance with our responsibilities outlined* in 36 CFR 800.4 and 800.5 regarding the identification of historic properties and assessment of any potential adverse effects. It is our determination that no properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected. Therefore, we have no reservations with the proposal.

In addition, we are not aware of any potential of this undertaking to affect Indian cultural or religious sites. However, if you require confirmation of this, the tribal entities will have to be contacted directly.

Should there be additional work in connection with the project, or any changes in the scope of work, please let us know in order that we may provide you with appropriate comments in compliance with the above referenced regulations. There remains a very remote possibility that unrecorded cultural resources may be encountered during construction. Should this occur, we would appreciate your contacting us immediately so that we may take appropriate steps under 36 CFR 800, part 13, regarding our response within forty-eight hours. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Elbert R. Hilliard
State Historic Preservation Officer

Thomas H. Waggener

By: Thomas H. Waggener
Review and Compliance Officer

cc: Clearinghouse for Federal Programs

Regional Clearinghouse No. SMPDD-0306-002
State Clearinghouse No. MS030218-003

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS
REVIEW AND COMMENTS

March 7, 2003

George Daniel
Keesler AFB-Dept of the Air Force
508 L Street
Keesler AFB, MS 39534

Project Description: Construction of a 403D Avionics Training Facility

(X) 1. The Regional Clearinghouse has received notification of intent to apply for Federal assistance as described above.

(X) 2. The Regional Clearinghouse has reviewed the application(s) for Federal assistance described above.

( ) 3. The Regional Clearinghouse has notified the appropriate metropolitan, local, and regional organizations and is awaiting notification of their interest on the project.

( ) 4. After proper notification, no local or regional agency (or other appropriate organization) has expressed an interest in conferring with the applicant(s) or commenting on the proposed project.

(X) 5. The proposed project is (X) consistent ( ) inconsistent with the Overall Economic Development Plan for the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District.

( ) 6. Although a _____ plan does not presently exist for _____, the proposed project appears to be ( ) consistent ( ) inconsistent with the regional goals and objectives.

(X) 7. This notice constitutes FINAL REGIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW AND COMMENT. The requirements of FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12372 AND THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 486 have been met at the Regional level.

COMMENTS: This project is consistent with the policies and objectives of the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District.

Leslie Newcomb, Executive Director

cc. Mildred Tharpe

the District

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT • 9229 HIGHWAY 49 GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 39503 • (228) 868-2311 FAX (228) 868-7094

March 7, 2003

George Daniel
Keesler AFB-Dept of the Air Force
508 L Street
Keesler AFB, MS 39534

RE: Construction of a 403D Avionics Training Facility

Dear Mr. Daniel:

I have enclosed the Review and Comments from the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District Regional Clearinghouse for Federal Programs regarding your application for the work stated above. This project will be located in Harrison County

If you require further information concerning the regional review, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Andrea J. Hopper

Andrea Hopper
Clearinghouse Coordinator

Attachment

cc. Mildred Tharpe
Clearinghouse Officer
Department of Finance and Administration
501 North West Street
1301 Woolfolk Building, Suite E
Jackson, MS 39201

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mississippi Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, Mississippi 39213
December 20, 2002

Mr. George Daniel
Department of the Air Force
81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB, Mississippi 39534-2115

Dear Mr. Daniel:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) dated November 5, 2002, which was submitted by the Department of the Air Force. The proposal includes the replacement of the existing 403rd Avionics Training Facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Harrison County, Mississippi. Our comments are submitted in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-667e) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et.).

The Service concurs with the determination that the proposed activities, if implemented as described in the EA, will have no adverse affect on any federally listed species or Critical Habitats, or wetlands. However, if the proposed plan is modified or additional actions are identified, the Service should be notified prior to construction.

The Service welcomes the opportunity to work with the military in the development of projects and activities at Keesler Air Force Base. If you need additional information, please contact Paul Necaise of our coastal office, telephone: (228) 493-6631.

Sincerely,

Curtis B. James

Curtis B. James
Assistant Field Supervisor

the District

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT • 9229 HIGHWAY 49 GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 39503 • (228) 868-2311 FAX (228) 868-7094

December 10, 2002

Mr. George Daniel
Keesler Air Force Base
508 L Street
Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2115

RE: Environmental Assessment – Construction of 403rd Avionics Training Facility

Dear Mr. Daniel:

I have enclosed the Review and Comments from the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District Regional Clearinghouse for Federal Programs regarding your application for the work stated above. This project will be located in Harrison County.

If you require further information concerning the regional review, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sheila Tirrell

Sheila Tirrell
Clearinghouse Coordinator

Attachment

cc. Mildred Tharpe
Clearinghouse Officer
Department of Finance and Administration
501 North West Street
1301 Woolfolk Building, Suite E
Jackson, MS 39201

Regional Clearinghouse No. SMPDD-0206-018
State Clearinghouse No. MS021118-004

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS
REVIEW AND COMMENTS

December 10, 2002

Mr. George Daniel
Keesler Air Force Base
508 L Street
Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2115

Project Description: Environmental Assessment – Construction of 403rd Avionics Training Facility

(X) 1. The Regional Clearinghouse has received notification of intent to apply for Federal assistance as described above.

(X) 2. The Regional Clearinghouse has reviewed the application(s) for Federal assistance described above.

( ) 3. The Regional Clearinghouse has notified the appropriate metropolitan, local, and regional organizations and is awaiting notification of their interest on the project.

( ) 4. After proper notification, no local or regional agency (or other appropriate organization) has expressed an interest in conferring with the applicant(s) or commenting on the proposed project.

(X) 5. The proposed project is (X) consistent ( ) inconsistent with the Overall Economic Development Plan for the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District.

( ) 6. Although a _____ plan does not presently exist for _____, the proposed project appears to be ( ) consistent ( ) inconsistent with the regional goals and objectives.

(X) 7. This notice constitutes FINAL REGIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW AND COMMENT. The requirements of FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12372 AND THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 486 have been met at the Regional level.

COMMENTS: This project is consistent with the policies and objectives of the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District.

Leslie Newcomb, Executive Director

cc. Mildred Tharpe

EO 12372
WEEKLY LOG
PGM=N150

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS

DATE 11/15/0
11/20/0

MS APPLICANT NO.: MS021118-004
IMPACT AREA(S): HARRISON

APPLICANT:
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE

CONTACT: GEORGE DANIEL
PHONE: (228) 377-1262

508 L STREET
KEESLER AFB MS 39534-2115

FEDERAL AGENCY:

FUNDING: FEDERAL
LOCAL
TOTAL

APPLICANT
OTHER

STATE
PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 403RD AVIONICS TRAINING FACILITY AT KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPI.

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER

1301 WOOLFOLK BLDG., SUITE E - JACKSON, MS 39201 (601) 359-6762

- THIS IS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ONLY -

STATE AGENCIES MUST REVIEW CERTAIN PROPOSALS PRIOR TO RECEIVING MISSISSIPPI INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS CLEARANCE. THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY REVIEWS ANY PROPOSALS INVOLVING CONSTRUCTION, SUCH AS A HIGHWAY OR AN APARTMENT COMPLEX FOR COMPLIANCE WITH CULTURAL RESOURCES AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION. MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL, REVIEWS APPLICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT. THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES REVIEWS APPLICATIONS FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE COASTAL PROGRAM.

IF APPLICATIONS ARE FOR PROJECTS OF LOCAL IMPACT, THEY SHOULD BE SENT TO THE APPROPRIATE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AT THE SAME TIME. PLEASE NOTE THAT ONE OF OUR REQUIREMENTS IS THE USE OF STANDARD FORM 424. THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION PREPARES AND DISTRIBUTES A WEEKLY LOG LISTING PERTINENT INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS FORM. OUR ADDRESS IS 1301 WOOLFOLK BLDG., SUITE E - JACKSON , MS 39201 AND OUR PHONE NUMBER IS (601)359-6762.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

December 4, 2002

GD

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Coastal Environment Team
Planning and Environmental Division

81 CES/CEV
Attention: Mr. James J. Chiniche
508 L Street
Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2115

Dear Mr. Chiniche:

In response to your request of November 5, 2002, Mobile District offers the following comments to the Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA) for the 403rd Avionics Training Facility at Keesler AFB. Generally, the District finds no significant issues with information presented in the DOPAA. This finding is based on Section 2.5 of the draft DOPAA which stated that no impacts to wetlands would result. Should the findings of the final Environmental Assessment differ you should consult with Mobile District's Regulatory Branch. Also, we noted Section 1.8 of the DOPAA made no specific mention of a cumulative impacts analysis. We would recommend the EA address the secondary and cumulative impacts resulting from the implementation of the preferred alternative and projects dependent upon that action.

If we can be of any further assistance to you, please call Mr.Howard Ladner at (251) 690-2023 or e-mail him at howard.w.ladner@sam.usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Susan Sweeta Rees for

Hugh A. McClellan,
Chief, Environment and Resources Branch

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

NOV 0 5 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR U S FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, REGION 4
Attn: Mr. Keith Taniguchi, Habitat Conservation Division Chief
1875 Century Blvd., Suite 200
Atlanta GA 30345

FROM: 81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB MS 39534-2115

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a 403rd Avionics Training Facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi

1. Brown & Mitchell Inc. has been contracted by the US Air Force to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of the above-mentioned facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi. The EA will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Air Force environmental policies.

2. The new facility will be located within existing Keesler Air Force Base property boundaries. Brown & Mitchell will be collecting and analyzing existing environmental and socioeconomic data as well as identifying potential impacts that may occur as a result of this proposed action. Enclosed for your reference is a vicinity map with the preferred site location for the proposed facility.

3. The purpose of this letter is to solicit any expressed issues or concerns your agency may have regarding the proposed action. If you require clarification or additional information, please contact Mr. George Daniel at (228) 377-1262 or by e-mail at george.Daniel@keesler.af.mil Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

JAMES J. CHINICHE, GS-13, DAF
Chief, Environmental Flight
81st Civil Engineer Squadron

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

NOV 0 5 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR OFFICE OF FEDERAL GRANTS (CLEARING HOUSE)
Dept of Finance and Administration
1301 Wool Folk Blvd, Ste E 501 NW Street
Jackson MS 39201

FROM: 81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB MS 39534-2115

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a 403rd Avionics Training Facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi

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JAMES J. CHINICHE, GS-13, DAF
Chief, Environmental Flight
81st Civil Engineer Squadron

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

NOV 0 5 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR MISS DEPT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
Attn: Mr. Elbert Hilliard, SHPO
P O Box 571
Jackson MS 39205

FROM: 81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB MS 39534-2115

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a 403rd Avionics Training Facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi

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JAMES J. CHINICHE, GS-13, DAF
Chief, Environmental Flight
81st Civil Engineer Squadron

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

NOV 0 5 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR MISS DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Attn: Mr. Charles Chisolm, Executive Director
P O Box 20305
Jackson MS 39289

FROM: 81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB MS 39534-2115

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a 403rd Avionics Training Facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi

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JAMES J. CHINICHE, GS-13, DAF
Chief, Environmental Flight
81st Civil Engineer Squadron

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

NOV 0 5 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR U S FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Attn: Mr. Ray Aycock, Jackson Field Office Supervisor
6578 Dogwood View Pkwy, Ste A
Jackson MS 39213

FROM: 81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB MS 39534-2115

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a 403rd Avionics Training Facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi

1. Brown & Mitchell Inc. has been contracted by the US Air Force to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of the above-mentioned facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi. The EA will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Air Force environmental policies.

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JAMES J. CHINICHE, GS-13, DAF
Chief, Environmental Flight
81st Civil Engineer Squadron

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

NOV 0 5 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPART OF THE ARMY
Mobile District, Corps of Engineers
P O Box 2288
Mobile, AL 36628-001

FROM: 81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB MS 39534-2115

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a 403rd Avionics Training Facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi

1. Brown & Mitchell Inc. has been contracted by the US Air Force to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of the above-mentioned facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi. The EA will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Air Force environmental policies.

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JAMES J. CHINICHE, GS-13, DAF
Chief, Environmental Flight
81st Civil Engineer Squadron

APPENDIX C

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

(FONSI)

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

403RD AVIONICS SHOP FACILITY
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPI

AGENCY: United States Air Force, Air Education and Training Command, 81st Training Wing, Keesler Air Force Base (AFB), Mississippi.

BACKGROUND:. The 81st Training Wing, through the Training Vision project, will demolish and replace, or modify the aged buildings with new, environmentally compliant facilities (USAF 2000a). One of these buildings is Hanger 1, which currently houses the 403rd Avionics Shop Facility. In order for the 403rd Avionics Group's mission to continue without interruption, a new shop facility will have to be constructed.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the Act (40 CFR 1500-1508), Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 6050.1, DoD Regulation 5000.2-R, and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061 (32 CFR Part 989), *Environmental Impact Analysis Process*, and other applicable Federal regulations, the Air Force conducted an assessment of the potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative.

PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action evaluated in this EA is to construct the new 403rd Avionics Shop facility on the preferred site (Alternative 2) as determined in Section 2.2 (see Table 2-1). The 403rd Avionics Shop facility would be constructed in the vacant open area adjacent to Aircraft Parking Apron #1 and Taxiway No. 1, and west of hangers 4253 and 4254. The facility would consist of a pre-engineered structural steel building system on a concrete slab.

The building will include office space, shops, support spaces, utilities, and infrastructure to support the avionics mission.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: The following paragraphs summarize the findings of the attached environmental assessment (EA) for the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative.

Air Quality. Fugitive dust and particulate matter would be generated during the construction of the shop facility. Once the shop facility is constructed, the air emissions would be no greater that those associated with the current operation of the 403rd Avionics Shop Facility..

Water Resources. Surface water and groundwater features will not be impacted due to the minimal increase in runoff from the additional impervious cover. No activity will occur in a floodplain.

Earth Resources. Soils have been previously disturbed and modified during site clearing and construction for Taxiway No.1, and Hangers 4253 and 4254; therefore, soils impacts are not expected.

Noise. Outdoor noise from construction activity at nearby buildings will be minimal. The primary source of noise at Keesler AFB will continue to be from aircraft operations, and would generally mask the construction noise.

Land Use. No land use category changes are required at Keesler AFB.

Infrastructure and Utilities. The systems have the capacity to accommodate planned activities.

Hazardous Materials and Wastes. Hazardous waste (HW) generation and hazardous materials (HM) purchases will minimally affect HM or HW management and will not prevent the base from achieving its pollution prevention reduction goals. No Installation Restoration Program impacts are anticipated.

Biological Resources. Activities will not adversely affect wildlife and vegetation, to include threatened or endangered species. No activity will occur in a wetland.

Cultural Resources. No archaeological resources are located in the construction area, nor will the proposed facility impact any historical or archaeological sites.

Socioeconomic Resources. The effects from construction projects and personnel changes are below levels representing significant impacts on the Biloxi-Gulfport area.

Environmental Justice. No disproportionately high or adverse impact on minority and low-income populations will occur.

DECISION: Based on the requirements of NEPA, CEQ, and AFI 32-7061 (32 CFR Part 989), I conclude the environmental effects of the Proposed Action are not significant, and therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

7 July 2003

MICHAEL W. PETERSON, Brigadier General, USAF
Commander
81st Training Wing

Date